

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the paragraph on page 1, immediately after the title, with the following:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a US National Phase of PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/025238, filed on August 4, 2004, published as WO 2005/016181., which claims the benefit under 119(e) of US provisional application 60/491,971, filed August 4, 2003, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Kindly amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 25 as follows:

-- The size difference between the circumferences of internal sheath 102 and external sheath 108 is optionally chosen according to a desired size of channel 112. In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the size of the channel 112 is chosen according to a desired impedance for fluids passing through the channel. In some embodiments of the invention, the size of channel 112 is chosen as a compromise between maximizing the fluid impedance and minimizing the cross-sectional area of sheath assembly 100. Alternatively or additionally, the size of channel 112 is set to achieve a predetermined fluid impedance, for example as described below with reference to Figs. 11A and 11B~~Fig. 11~~--.